

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:DCLARE:MDION:JD

APPROVED BY USOAS:AMB. MAILLIARD

USOAS:REWHITE

ARA:WDROGERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 302497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS CHARTER REFORM: IMPRESSIONS OF LATIN

-- REACTION TO US PROPOSALS

1. SUMMARY. DECISION TO TAKE UP OAS CHARTER REFORM  
ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRIES BASED ON WHAT  
PROVED WELL-FOUNDED PREMISE THAT PERMREPS HERE WORK AND  
VOTE LARGELY WITHOUT GUIDANCE FROM GOVERNMENTS. MAIN  
RESULT OF MAILLIARD/WHITE TRIPS WAS TO AROUSE HIGH  
LEVEL INTEREST IN FUTURE OF THE OAS, NOT SIMPLY  
QUESTION OF DRAFT CHARTER BUT NATURE OF ORGANIZATION  
ITSELF. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES OUR GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC  
IMPRESSION AS A RESULT OF THE TRIPS AND AMBASSADORS'  
SOUNDINGS ELSEWHERE FOR USE IN CONTINUING PROCESS TO  
KEEP FOREIGN OFFICES ABREAST OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN  
OAS REFORM. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING  
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY  
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2. A NUMBER OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ASKED MAILLIARD/WHITE TO LET THEM KNOW HOW OTHER CAPITALS REACTED TO THEIR PROPOSALS. SPECIFIC MESSAGES ARE IN CONCLUDING PARAGRAPHS OF THIS CABLE. FOLLOWING GENERAL IMPRESSIONS ARE PROVIDED FOR EMBASSIES TO STIMULATE MORE HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION FOR THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

3. GENERAL IMPRESSIONS:

A. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, OFFICIALS UNEQUIVOCAL ABOUT NEED FOR BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND MOST STATED FLATLY THAT OAS IS VALUABLE AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED. RATIONALES VARIED: TWO OR THREE SAW OAS AS VEHICLE FOR CONFRONTATION; SOME REGARDED IT AS FRAMEWORK FOR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP; OTHERS SAW IT AS UNIQUE DEVICE FOR FACTORING HEMISPHERIC CONCERNS INTO GLOBAL POLICIES OF US.

B. SURPRISINGLY WIDESPREAD CONSENSUS EMERGED REGARDING OUR PROPOSAL FOR UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP. DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF MINI-STATES BROUGHT UP BY TWO MINISTERS WHO POINTED TO PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING RESPONSIBLE VOTING STRUCTURE WITHOUT CREATING SECOND-RATE MEMBERSHIP. BELIZE PROBLEM REGARDED BY MOST AS SUI GENERIS; BUT EVEN GUATEMALA FAVORED UNIVERSALITY AS PRINCIPLE AND SEEMED WILLING CONSIDER BELIZE ISSUE SEPARATELY.

C. SUPPORT FOR CEESI DRAFT DIRECTLY RELATED TO INVESTMENT IN DRAFTING. PERU AND PANAMA, FOLLOWED BY ECUADOR, COMMITTED TO CURRENT EFFORT WHICH THEY HAD LARGE HAND IN WRITING. BROAD CROSS SECTION OF GOVERNMENTS FAVOR NON-IDEOLOGICAL CHARTER OR AT LEAST ONE GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. SEVERAL SPOKE UP FOR KEEPING THE PRESENT CHARTER, WHILE OTHERS PREPARED TO START A SERIOUS NEW EFFORT. CONSENSUS EXISTS THAT INVESTMENT IN PRESENT REFORM EFFORT SHOULD NOT BE DISCARDED OUT-OF-HAND AND THAT PERMANENT COUNCIL SHOULD COMPLETE ITS REVIEW OF CEESI DRAFT AND TRANSMIT IT TO GOVERNMENTS.

D. CLEAR MAJORITY OF OFFICIALS SAID THEY PLANNED TO  
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UNDERTAKE CAREFUL STUDY AS SOON AS PERMANENT COUNCIL REPORTS OUT ON NEW DRAFT CHARTER. FURTHER EFFORTS TO CONSULT AMONG US DISCUSSED BUT CONSENSUS PREFERRED INFORMAL TALKS TO MAJOR SPECIAL CONFERENCE. SEVERAL FOREIGN MINISTERS EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT PRACTICAL CHANGES IN PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION, EVEN UNDER EXISTING CHARTER, WOULD DO MORE TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO ORGANIZATION THAN ANY NEW CHARTER.

E. NO ONE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT REDUCTION IN US ASSESSMENT TO WEAKEN MYTH OF US DOMINATION. NONETHELESS, THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL APPRECIATION THAT RELYING ON ONE MEMBER FOR 66 OF SUPPORT WAS MORE THAN COSMETIC PROBLEM. IDEA OF MOVING HEADQUARTERS TO LATIN AMERICA SUPPORTED ONLY BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, WHO OFFERED SAN JOSE AS ALTERNATIVE.

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F. US IS CONTINUING TO PARTICIPATE IN PERMANENT COUNCIL REVIEW OF NEW DRAFT CHARTER, IN PART AT URGING OF MOST FOREIGN MINISTERS. WE HAVE TABLED AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFIC ARTICLES WE DISLIKE BUT THEY CONTINUE TO BE VOTED DOWN IN THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS ARE ON INCREASE. FOR EXAMPLE, PER STATE 299853, ON FIVE AMENDMENTS US PROPOSED, NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS RANGED BETWEEN 5 AND 14. IN OAS VOTING SYSTEM, ABSTENTION EQUALS VOTE AGAINST BUT IT IMPLIES MORE MODERATE POSITION. AMONG TOTAL OF FIFTEEN COUNTRIES ABSTAINING ON ONE OR MORE OF US PROPOSALS, SIX ABSTAINED IN AT LEAST THREE CASES, TWO (INCLUDING BRAZIL) IN FOUR OF VOTES AND TWO IN ALL FIVE.

G. OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP WORKING IN THE CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS WILL CONTINUE BUT WE BELIEVE THAT MEMBERSHIP MUST ADDRESS BROAD QUESTION OF FUTURE OF OAS AND WE WILL HAVE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS TO MAKE IN THE COMING MONTHS.

4. FOR MONTEVIDEO: OF ALL OFFICIALS CONTACTED, FONMIN BLANCO WAS THE BEST PREPARED FOR THE DISCUSSION AND THE MOST CONVINCED ADVOCATE OF A STRONGER OAS WITH THE US IN IT. WE WELCOME HIS LEADERSHIP IN THE CAM-  
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PAIGN TO RESTRUCTURE THIS VALUABLE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

5. FOR BRASILIA: WE WERE PLEASED WITH FONMIN SILVEIRA'S OFFER TO WORK FOR AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME TO THE REFORM EFFORT AND WILL CONSULT WITH HIM FURTHER AS THE PROCESS CONTINUES.

6. FOR CARACAS: FONMIN ESCOBAR SAID FRANKLY THAT HE DID NOT THINK A NEW CHARTER WAS NECESSARY -- A MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES MAY EVENTUALLY REACH THAT CONCLUSION BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A BETTER DRAFT IN THE PRESENT PERMANENT COUNCIL STAGE OF CONSIDERATION, PENDING A BROAD EFFORT AT OVERALL REFORM THEREAFTER.

7. FOR BOGOTA: FOREIGN MINISTER LIEVANO WAS ONE OF THE

MOST ANALYTICAL AND INSIGHTFUL OFFICIALS MAILLIARD OR WHITE ENCOUNTERED AND WE ARE PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HIM AS REFORM PROCEEDS. HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN IN FAVOR OF QTE SHOCK TREATMENT UNQTE TO REFOCUS ATTENTION ON PRACTICAL ISSUES AND AWAY FROM UNPRODUCTIVE ARGUMENTS OVER INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES OF THE NEW CHARTER. WE ARE PLEASED WITH HIS OFFER TO HELP US IN QTE FORMULATING IDEAS, PROPOSALS AND TACTICS TO MAKE THE REFORM PROCESS EFFECTIVE UNQTE AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. HE MAY WANT TO CONSULT WITH FONMINS BLANCO AND FACIO WHO HAVE

SIMILAR VIEWS ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR A MORE MODERN OAS.

8. FOR SAN JOSE: WHITE'S MEETING WITH FONMIN FACIO REVEALED BASIC AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A REVITALIZED OAS AND ADVISABILITY OF SEEKING LEAN, WORKABLE, NON-IDEOLOGICAL CHARTER SINCE MAJORITY VOTE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CONSENSUS IN WRITING CHARTER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. FACIO ALSO AGREED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN WORKING FOR A BETTER OAS AND SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH LIEVANO. WE WELCOME FACIO'S EFFORTS AND WILL CONSULT HIM AS THE PROCESS CONTINUES.

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9. FOR LA PAZ: ALTHOUGH TIGHT SCHEDULE MADE VISIT BY MAILLIARD AND WHITE IMPOSSIBLE, WE FOUND FONMIN GUZMAN'S DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR STEDMAN AND MURILLO/POL COUNSELOR MEMCON VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CURRENT PROCESS AND HOPE THAT BOLIVIA WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN OAS REFORM. AMBASSADOR ORTIZ SANZ IS A HIGHLY COMPETENT AND THOUGHTFUL PERM REP. KISSINGER

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